

Theft, drugs extend Airman's stay in confinement

BY CAPT. TIFFANY A. DAWSON

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An Airman Basic already serving a 16-month sentence in a military confinement facility was convicted of larceny and several drug-related crimes and was punitively discharged from the Air Force during a general court-martial here March 25.

Airman Basic Russell D. Eaves, formerly assigned to the 58th Maintenance Operations Squadron, was charged with stealing, using, possessing and distributing another inmate's medication while he was confined at the Kirtland Confinement Facility awaiting trial on other drug-related charges in his first court-martial.

In August 2002, while in pretrial confinement, Eaves stole another inmate's Adderall, a type of amphetamine and Schedule II controlled

substance used to treat attention deficit and hyperactivity disorders.

After retrieving the medication that he had stashed in a storage cabinet in the confinement facility male staff latrine, Eaves proceeded to use and distribute the drug to another inmate in the facility.

Eaves elected to be tried by a military judge alone. He pled guilty to the use and possession charges.

Despite his pleas of not guilty to the possession and larceny charges, Col. Jack Anderson, the military judge, found him guilty of all charges.

During its sentencing argument, the government focused on Eaves' outrageous and dishonorable conduct during his 20 months in the Air Force, highlighting numerous acts of misconduct while in pretrial confinement awaiting his first court-martial.

The defense asked the military judge to consider the efforts that Eaves had made to rehabilitate himself during his confinement at the Naval Brig in Miramar, Calif., over the past seven months.

The military judge sentenced Eaves to a bad conduct discharge, 10 months of confinement and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Capt. Tonya Avery, the trial counsel in the case, said, "Multiple courts-martial for an accused are rare. However, Eaves' conduct while in pretrial confinement was not only unlawful, but was also extremely disruptive to operations of the confinement facility.

"This is an individual who showed contempt for authority and the military way of life even when sitting in pretrial confinement.

"The sentence shows that use, possession, distribution and larceny of drugs absolutely will not be tolerated in the military," she concluded.

Picking up the pieces for your move: the claims process

BY CAPT. MARK TRUJILLO

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When military members and their families make permanent changes of station, the move often brings the sadness of saying farewell to close friends and co-workers, as well as the excitement associated with a new duty location.

Unfortunately, it can sometimes entail the frustration experienced when one's household goods are damaged or missing during a move.

Your initial reaction might be, "Who will pay for this, or what recourse do I have?" The Kirtland AFB Claims Office offers the following tips regarding the claims process to help you pick up the pieces:

★ Be proactive when the movers from your departing location pick up your household goods. Pay special attention to any exceptions (damage written up on your property and items packed in boxes) the carrier makes to your property on the inventory.

When you ultimately sign the completed inventory list, you are attesting that it is a true and accurate description of your property. If the damages listed on the inventory are incorrect or excessive, there is a place on the form for you to take exception to the carrier.

If any damage occurs to your household goods during the move, and it is not properly annotated on the inventory list, your claim may be denied payment. If you have property not listed on the inventory and you cannot prove ownership, that too may be denied.

The model and serial numbers of your electronic items should be written on the inventory as well, even if they are packed in a box.

Compact discs and DVDs are hot items that frequently turn up missing. Making a detailed list of these items will save you a lot of heartache (and money) later.

★ The Kirtland Legal Office has a claims program to help defray the costs associated with items damaged during a

move. However, this program is not a substitute to having private insurance coverage.

With private insurance, you can tailor your coverage to ensure that the items you value the most are adequately protected. Also, private insurance offers full replacement value insurance while the Air Force claims program normally only reimburses members for the repair cost or the depreciated value of the property, whichever is less.

If your private insurance policy covers your loss or damage, you must file through your insurance company before you may file through the government claims program. Typically, insurance companies cover claims that involve missing and water-damaged items.

If an insurance policy covers any portion of your missing or damaged items, the entire claim must be filed through the insurance company prior to filing your claim with the Air Force.

The claims program was

enacted by Congress to help alleviate some of the frustration encountered during permanent change of station moves. There are several procedural requirements that must be met before a claim can be paid.

The government will pay claims based on the depreciated value of most household items. For example, if your 10-year-old television set was damaged during transit, you may claim what it would cost you to replace the television set. The most you will be paid is the value of a 10-year-old television set. You may, however, purchase Increased Valuation Shipping Coverage through the Traffic Management Office prior to your move.

★ When your household goods are delivered to your new home, you should annotate any damage on the DD Form 1840, or pink form. You have only 70 days from the date of delivery of your household goods to turn in your pink form to the claims office.

Should you notice damage after the carrier has delivered your goods, you may annotate additional damage or missing items on the reverse side of the pink form. The pink form is not your claim. It simply puts the carrier on notice that some of your property was either damaged or missing and that

you plan on filing a claim at a later date. These pink forms may be submitted to the claims office, on a walk-in basis, weekdays 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

★ You then have up to two years from the date of delivery to file your claim paperwork in the Legal Office. This will require some work on your part, such as first checking with your private insurance company, filling out the required claims forms, submitting applicable receipts, and obtaining repair or replacement estimates.

To ensure the most personal attention is given to your claim, appointments are taken on Mondays and Wednesdays. Once you have completed all of the necessary paperwork, you may call the Kirtland AFB Claims Office to set an appointment.

The claims office provides a weekly briefing at the base legal office every Tuesday, 2 p.m., to answer any questions you may have about the claims process and ensure that you are fully aware of all documentation required in order to obtain payment.

Bring the 1840/1840R (pink form) with you to the briefing. Call the Claims Office at 846-4221 or 4222.



Photo by Todd Berenger

377th Air Base Wing Training Day is April 17.

Members of the 377th Air Base Wing test their gas masks during March’s Training Day. The Military Personnel Flight and 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron will be closed for training. The 377th Medical Group will open in the morning for medical sick call but will close for training. Pharmacies will also be closed.

Save water, follow red, yellow, green drops

BY CLIFF RICHARDSON
Chugach JV

Why should we conserve water at Kirtland AFB?

One reason is that the water supply for the whole city is limited and we all use the same aquifer. Another is we have federal mandates to do so. Executive Order 13123 for Energy and Water Efficiency in Federal Facilities mandates a 35 percent energy reduction from 1985 to 2010,

including energy savings from water conservation.

Our water usage last year was 133 gallons a person a day with our goal at 145 gallons. This year our water usage is nine percent below the same period last year. We need to maintain this excellent trend.

Base housing residents, as large water consumers, can set the pace in meeting the goal. If you live on the even side of

the street, you should water only on the even days of the month. The other side of the street should water on the odd days. This restriction starts each year in April.

Housing residents can also watch television to see if it is a red, yellow or green drop day for watering forecasts.

★ A red drop means that you should not water.

★ A yellow drop means that it could be a bad time to water and you should not water if you feel that you do not have to.

★ A green drop means that it is all right to water.

This information is for guidance for conscientious water use. The red and green drop period lasts until Sept. 30.

Finally, you should not water the grass with a sprin-

kler system between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Hot sun can waste water by evaporation.

You can also help by calling the Civil Engineer service call desk, 846-8222, if you see a broken sprinkler head. For other water and utility matters or questions, please call the Energy Engineer at 846-4633 or call the water and energy conservation hot line at 846-2657.

Holy week services scheduled

Ecumenical

Maundy Thursday: Seder meal, 5 p.m.

Catholic

Palm Sunday: Mass tomorrow, 4:45 p.m.; Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday: service, 7 p.m.; Eucharistic Adoration, 8 p.m.

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, noon; ecumenical service, 7 p.m.

Easter weekend: Vigil Mass, April 19, 8 p.m.; Easter Mass, April 20, 9 a.m.; Easter egg hunt, April 20, 10 a.m.

Protestant

Palm Sunday: Waving of palms, 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday: after seder

Good Friday: ecumenical service, 7 p.m.

Easter: Sunrise service, Hardin Field, 6 a.m.; combined Easter service, 10:30 a.m.